

Though this man was in his ninth decade, he had an incredibly sharp and vigorous and rigorous mind.

As a public man, he always seemed to believe the greatest sin was remaining passive in the face of challenges. And he never stopped living by that creed. He gave of himself with intelligence and energy and devotion to duty. And his entire country owes him a debt of gratitude for that service. Oh yes, he knew great controversy amid defeat as well as victory. He made mistakes, and they, like his accomplishments, are part of his life and record.

But the enduring lesson of Richard Nixon is that he never gave up being part of the action and passion of his times. He said many times that unless a person has a goal, a new mountain to climb, his spirit will die. Well, based on our last phone conversation and the letter he wrote me just a month ago, I can say that his spirit was very much alive to the very end. That is a great tribute to him, to his wonderful wife, Pat, to his children, and to his grandchildren whose love he so depended on and whose love he returned in full measure.

Today is a day for his family, his friends, and his nation to remember President Nixon's

life in totality. To them, let us say, may the day of judging President Nixon on anything less than his entire life and career come to a close. May we heed his call to maintain the will and the wisdom to build on America's greatest gift, its freedom, to lead a world full of difficulty to the just and lasting peace he dreamed of.

As it is written in the words of a hymn I heard in my church last Sunday, "Grant that I may realize that the trifling of life creates differences, but that in the higher things, we are all one." In the twilight of his life, President Nixon knew that lesson well. It is, I feel certain, a faith he would want us all to keep.

And so, on behalf of all four former Presidents who are here, President Ford, President Carter, President Reagan, President Bush, and on behalf of a grateful nation, we bid farewell to Richard Milhous Nixon.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 5 p.m. at the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace. This release also included remarks by Rev. Billy Graham, who conducted the service; former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger; Senator Robert Dole; and Gov. Pete Wilson of California.

Nomination for United States District Court Judges

April 27, 1994

The President today nominated the following seven individuals to serve on the U.S. District Court: Harold Baer, Jr., Denise Cote, John G. Koeltl, and Barrington D. Parker, Jr. for the Southern District of New York; Rosemary S. Pooler for the Northern District of New York; John Corbett O'Meara for the Eastern District of Michigan; and Robert J. Timlin for the Central District of California.

"I am pleased to nominate these distinguished individuals to serve on the Federal bench," the President said today. "Each has an outstanding record of achievement in the legal community and public service."

NOTE: Biographies of the nominees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Remarks to the National Council on Aging

April 28, 1994

Thank you very much, Jim and Dan, and ladies and gentlemen. What a way to start the day. I am so grateful for the opportunity to

be with you today and grateful to the National Council on Aging for your early and continued support.